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## GULF COUNTY RESTORE ACT PROJECT PRE-PROPOSAL FORM

**Project Name:** Living Shoreline Initiative

**Submitting Entity:** Preble-Rish Consulting Engineers

**I. Please select one or more eligible activity that the project is classified under:**

- ☒ Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region.
- ☒ Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources.
- ☐ Implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring.
- ☒ Workforce development and job creation.
- ☒ Improvements to or on State parks located in coastal areas affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
- ☒ Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure.
- ☒ Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure.
- ☒ Planning assistance.
- ☒ Promotion of tourism and seafood in the Gulf Coast region.

**II. Please provide an executive summary of the project. Describe/quantify the economic (jobs, infrastructure, tourism, etc.) and environmental benefits (habitat, quality, knowledge, long-term sustainability, etc.).**

Coastal shorelines are critical to protect inland areas from tidal and storm damage, provide important habitat to a wide variety of wildlife, serve as a filter to remove contaminants and help sustain water quality, provide spawning and nursery habitat for commercial fisheries, support active and passive recreation, and provide aesthetic value for citizens and tourists alike. Unfortunately, these areas have been degraded due to hardened structures (i.e., sea walls and rip rap) and lack of coastal riparian buffer capacity to reduce erosional forces during storm events.

In order to keep pace with stabilizing eroding shorelines, proactive restoration and management tactics that facilitate horizontal, landward migration or vertical accretion are expected to become increasingly important. Living shorelines are promoted as one such technique and alternative to "hardened" stabilization engineering as it uses natural materials to protect shorelines from erosion while providing critical habitat for wildlife.

Preble-Rish Consulting Engineers are seeking funding to develop a living shoreline initiative by locating appropriate areas throughout Gulf County that would benefit from various forms of living shorelines, implementing the appropriate living shoreline approach, and monitoring the success of each living shoreline project for 3 to 5 years. This project will benefit local economic opportunities by implementing projects along Gulf County shorelines and promote aesthetic values for tourism values. Environmentally, implementing living shoreline projects will increase habitat, reduce sedimentation into existing resources, and promote long-term stability of estuary health.

**III. Please provide a cost summary/budget. Detail any matching/cooperative funds available for use, and any cooperative support from governmental or other agencies.**

For the purposes of developing a living shoreline initiative for Gulf County, Preble-Rish is requesting \$1,500,000 for the assessment, implementation, and monitoring of living shorelines throughout the coastal areas of Gulf County

**IV. Please provide a timeline for project completion. Explain the technical and environmental feasibility (including any permitting considerations) of the project.**

To successfully develop a living shoreline initiative for Gulf County including the monitoring of project success, Preble-Rish would require 3 to 5 years for completion. Permitting considerations are necessary for living shoreline implementation on both private and public lands with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as well as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

**V. Please provide the qualifications of the Submitting Entity, the financial feasibility/sustainability and the economic feasibility and sustainability of the project (probability of success, etc.).**

Preble-Rish Consulting Engineers will lead the living shoreline initiative in Gulf County, with Vice President Cliff Knauer, P.E. as the principal investigator for the project. Mr. Knauer earned his Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Florida State University and has 15 years as a Florida licensed engineer. Through his professional career he has developed pertinent restoration skills, including survey techniques, appropriate re-vegetated plant community designs, soil bioengineering approaches and construction supervision.

Cameron Morris is the Senior Project Manager and EIT for Coastal Hydrology with 8 years of experience in fisheries and restoration. Cameron earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Ecology from the University of Georgia as well as a Master of Science degree in Civil

Engineering from Florida State University. Cameron has extensive experience working in fisheries both internationally as well as throughout the Southeast and Western United States. Through his experiences working in both the private and public sector, Cameron has acquired skill sets in environmental restoration, as well as biological and ecological samplings, assessments, and analysis.

The combined experience and expertise in aquatic ecosystem function and familiarity with living shoreline implementation provides Preble-Rish and Coastal Hydrology a high degree of project success.

**VI. Please provide the anticipated results of the project, and whether it is included in a City of Port St. Joe, City of Wewahitchka or Gulf County Comprehensive and Mitigation Plan?**

In developing a living shoreline initiative, the anticipated results for Gulf County would entail an analysis and assessment of potential living shoreline areas, the development of a conceptual plan and implementation in areas deemed receptive to the various living shoreline strategies, and the monitoring of each projects' success including a final detailed report. This proposal addresses the Gulf County Comprehensive and Mitigation Plan's Chapter 2, Goal 2, Objective 2.1, and Chapter 6, Objective 1.4, Policies 1.4.3 and 1.4.11.

**Submitted By:**

Cliff Knauer

**Signature**

Preble-Rish

**Company Name**

342 Marina Drive, Port St. Joe, FL 32456

**Address**

**Address**

(850) -267-0759

**Telephone Number**

knauerc@preble-rish.com

**E-mail Address (if applicable)**

February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**Date**



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA  
RESTORE ACT COMMITTEE (R.A.C.)**

1000 CECIL G. COSTIN SR. BLVD., ROOM 312, PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA 32456  
PHONE (850)229-6144 • FAX (850) 229-9252 • EMAIL: tkopinsky@gulfcounty-fl.gov

**PUBLIC RECORDS POLICY AND PUBLIC ACCESS ACKNOWLEDGMENT FOR  
GULF COUNTY RESTORE ACT APPLICANTS**

I, Clifford L. Knauer, P.E. the undersigned authority and/or representative of the entity Preble-Rish Consulting Engineers and or the individual who has submitted the Gulf County RESTORE Act Proposal/Pre-Proposal titled Living Shoreline Initiative hereby acknowledge, consent and accept the following representations that coincide with my/our submission for consideration, evaluation and possible recommendation and approval by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners for funding from the RESTORE Act distribution that strictly complies with the guidelines and regulations set forth under the Restoration and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012:

1. I/We am the authorized representative of the application/pre-proposal referenced above.
2. I/We have thoroughly reviewed and familiarized myself and/or my entity on which I have submitted the application/pre-proposal on behalf of with the entirety of the Gulf County Public Records policy.
3. I/We have thoroughly reviewed and familiarized myself and/or my entity on which I have submitted the application/pre-proposal on behalf of with the entirety of the Florida Statute Chapter 119 which controls and permits public access to information.
4. I/We hereby acknowledge, consent and agree to the controlling policies and statutes above as well as the free and open exchange of any and all submissions provided hereunder this application/pre-proposal and all information exchanged hereafter including but not limited to further amendments to these proposals as well as surveys, studies, research, data production, books, drawings, property records, work papers, county owner lists, files, forms, reports, accounts, documents, manuals, handbooks, instructions, printouts relating in any manner for the production of the application. In addition, all papers, notes, data, reference material, documentation, programs, printouts, and all other media and forms of expression that in any way include, incorporate or reflect any confidential information of what ultimately shall become the Gulf County plans for use and application of the RESTORE Act funding.
5. I/We acknowledge, agree and fully consent to cooperate with the appointed Gulf County RESTORE ACT committee, county officials and staff as a continuing obligation and condition of final review for this RESTORE Act application/pre-proposal.
6. I/We have submitted this acknowledgment to Gulf County RESTORE Act Committee and the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners for the purpose and intent of receiving an evaluation, review and possible recommendations for anticipated funding from the Restoration and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012.

  
Signature of RESTORE Act Applicant

Cliff L. Knauer  
Printed Name

Date: 2-25-13